

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:GGGRIFFITHS:JH
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-----022544 222003Z /70

O 221849Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIRLINE GROUND HANDLING AND MAINTENANCE
REF:RIMAS/ EMBASSY TELECON 6/19

1. FOLLOWING REF TELECON, DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED SITUATION
WITH BRANIFF REPRESENTATIVES. SITUATION AS WE UNDERSTAND
IT IS AS FOLLOWS:

--RECENT GOP DECREE REQUIRES NON-SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO HAVE
PASSENGER HANDLING PERFORMED BY CORPAC.

--BRANIFF CURRENTLY RENEGOTIATING ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
CONTRACT WITH CORPAC. THE TWO ARE HAGGLING OVER THE FEE
TO BE CHARGED. CORPAC HAS INDICATED IT MAY SIGN CON-
TRACT WITH SOMEONE ELSE, I.E. AEROPERU.

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--BRANIFF CONCERNED THAT DECREE ON PASSENGER HANDLING MAY
BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE SCHEDULED OPERATIONS, I.E. BRANIFF,
AND THE FUNCTIONS PERFORMED MAY BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE
GROUND MAINTENANCE AS WELL.

2. AT THIS STAGE, THEREFORE, ONLY REQUIREMENT THAT HAS
BEEN ISSUED CONCERNS PASSENGER HANDLING OF NON-SCHEDULED

OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY SEEMS TO EXIST THAT OTHER, BROADER DECREES MAY FOLLOW.

3. DEPARTMENT CONCERNED OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS. USG HAS TAKEN STRONG STAND AGAINST GROUND HANDLING MONOPOLIES ELSEWHERE. SUCH MONOPOLIES ARE ANTI-COMPETITIVE IN THAT THEY DEPRIVE AIRLINES THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE AMONG COMPANIES, OR DO THEIR OWN GROUND HANDLING. IN ADDITION, EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT SERVICE DETERIORATES AND COSTS GO UP WHEN HANDLING IS PERFORMED BY MONOPOLIES. CONSEQUENTLY, USG IS OPPOSED TO MONOPOLIES FOR SCHEDULED OR NON-SCHEDULED OPERATIONS.

4. ANOTHER QUESTION IS INVOLVED HERE IF SUCH DECREES ARE EXPANDED TO GROUND MAINTENANCE AS WELL. ANY MAINTENANCE ON US REGISTERED AIRCRAFT MUST BE PERFORMED BY FAA CERTIFIED MECHANICS. THIS IS A MATTER OF SAFETY, AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANY FLEXIBILITY WHATSOEVER. DEPARTMENT UNAWARE IF GOP PLANNING EXTEND DECREES IN ANY WAY TO GROUND MAINTENANCE. HOWEVER, WE ARE INFORMED THAT A RECENT SWISS CHARTER FLIGHT BY BAL AIR WAS REQUIRED TO USE AEROPERU GROUND MAINTENANCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTED CONFIRM DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION AS OUTLINED PARA 1 FOREGOING, AS WELL AS BAL AIR INCIDENT. EMBASSY SHOULD DISCREETLY ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN WHETHER AEROPERU HAS ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MECHANICS WITH FAA CERTIFICATES. EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE TO APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS THAT USG WISHES DISCUSS QUESTION OF GROUND HANDLING DURING UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS, AND REQUEST GOP NOT REQUIRE ANY US NON-SCHEDULED FLIGHTS IN INTERIM TO USE CORPAC FOR PASSENGER HANDLING. FYI WE UNDERSTAND A TIA (TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES) CHARTER FLIGHT SCHEDULED ARRIVE LIMA JUNE 29 OR 30. END FYI.REPORT RESPONSE SOONEST. VANCE

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